

1-12-1987

Academic Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes, January 12, 1987

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Wright State University - Main Campus

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Wright State University
Dayton, Ohio 45435

TO: Members of Academic Council and University Faculty *REW*
FROM: Richard Williams, Vice President of the University Faculty
SUBJECT: Agenda for Academic Council Meeting on Monday,
January 12, 1987, at 3:10 p.m.
Place: Rear Section of the University Center Cafeteria

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes of December 1, 1986 Meeting
- III. Report of the President: Paige Mulhollan
- IV. Report of the Steering Committee: Richard Williams
- V. Report of the Standing Committees
 - A. Curriculum: Robert Wagley
 - B. Faculty Affairs: Gregory Bernhardt
 - C. Library: Adrian Rake
 - D. Student Affairs: Alan Cooper
 - E. University Budget Review Committee: Robert Dixon
- VI. Old Business
 - A. A New Minor in Music: Robert Wagley-- Curriculum Committee
 - B. Library Committee Recommendation: Adrian Rake--Library Committee
 - C. The 1988-89 Academic Calendar: Alphonso Smith--Calendar and Elections Committee
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Announcements and Special Reports
 - A. Intellectual Property Committee Membership
- IX. Adjournment

RW/dc

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 12, 1987

- I. The meeting of January 12, 1987 was called to order by Richard Williams, Vice-President of the University Faculty, at 3:10 p.m. in the cafeteria extension of the University Center.

Present: J. Abidi, C. Altick, J. Ballantine, D. Beelick, J. Brandeberry, D. Carlson, L. Crum, P. Engle, N. Hassan, R. Iddings, J. Klinger, J. Lancaster, D. Leach, B. Mann, J. Martin, K. McNamara, P. Mulhollan, V. O'Brien, M. Perkel, S. Praeger, J. Runkle, J. Sayer, L. Shupe, D. Uetrecht, R. Williams

Absent: J. Daily, C. Denman, W. Goulet, M. Hall, C. Hathaway, M. Kapp, L. Kurdek, D. Murphy, R.A. Pendergrass, M. Pryor, M. Sammons

- II. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the December 1, 1986 minutes as distributed.

III. Report of the President, Paige Mulhollan reporting:

A. Faculty/President, Vice-President Breakfast

In an effort to communicate with individual faculty through the medium of a series of breakfasts, 12-20 faculty members will be randomly chosen, on a bimonthly basis, to join President Mulhollan and Vice-President Hathaway for breakfast. This process will continue throughout the balance of the two remaining quarters of this year in hopes that it will contribute to an increased and informal dialogue between the administration and the working members of the faculty.

B. Budget

As the legislature goes into session in the coming weeks a lot of gloomy and pessimistic talk will be heard from Columbus about the budget. Things are not terrible. Under those circumstances, it is often easy to overreact to pessimism; it is important to understand clearly what is being said and what the impact of it actually is.

According to information from other college presidents, state after state is being forced to adjust its current year budget by figures that range as high as 13-15% from the budgeted figures. Ohio's adjustment, in comparison, is quite favorable.

1. Current Year Budget: (What is happening to the state's revenue picture with respect to the biennium that ends June 30, 1987.)

When the biennium budget was passed two years ago, appropriations were made by 200 million dollars more than was expected to be raised in revenues. A revenue windfall was in existence which was intended to draw down; it was expected that revenues would grow rapidly enough so that at the end of the year revenues would have achieved a rate which would have caught up with the appropriation level that had been mandated for the 1986-87 year. Those revenues have not grown as fast as was expected and are running at a level which will create a modest shortfall (less than 1%) during the current year.

Should the current year be completed under the current budget, and should the current revenue shortfall remain, it would not only expend the balance of the state general fund surplus, but would dip into its "rainy day" fund that is available in cases of crises. As a result, the governor has ordered and the budget director has announced the possibility that state agencies will be requested to cut spending by 1% of their current state appropriations if the shortfall appears to be a real one on or about April 1; the cut has not been ordered, but the agencies have been ordered to manage for the cut against its 50-50 possibility.

2. Budget for the Next Biennium.

Revenues are not yet running at a level which would be sufficient to continue the current year's budget for the next biennium. Despite the genuinely favorable position with which higher education occupies in the priorities of the Celeste administration, the chances of there being a generous state budget in 1987-88 are very bad. Unofficially, the likelihood is that the governor is going to recommend practically a flat budget (a stand-still budget/no growth in absolute dollars) with a modest growth (3-5%) for the second year of the biennium. Although more reference will be made to flat budgets within the next few weeks, there should remain optimism there there are going to be sufficient resources within the next two years to make possible the continuations of many of the good things that are going on at Wright State University, many of the initiatives that the faculty have been responsible for undertaking.

3. Problems for the Current Year:

Wright State University is suffering a very significant revenue shortfall for three basic reasons. The university is going to realize just over 1 1/2 million dollars less than was budgeted in the general budget last year:

- a. The university budgeted state subsidy on the assumption that the Board of Regents would (after having approved Wright State's Ph.D. program in computer engineering) classify the computer engineering courses as engineering courses rather than as computer science courses. The difference is two full steps in the subsidy model and is in excess of \$520,000. Wright State University was not appropriated a subsidy based on that assumption; the best that could be established was that a determination will be made for future subsidy years by April 1.
- b. Wright State University budgeted as if the new research building in the Research Park was going to come on-line in the fall (October 1, 1986). Under the state's budgeting system, if it had come on-line at that time, the university could have claimed operating subsidy for that building during the course of the year. The contractors failed on their performance dates; as a result the university lost all state subsidy for operating that building during the current year, a total of \$214,000.

- c. The state appropriation did not sufficiently cover the enrollment change since the beginning of the biennium; therefore, the state paid subsidy only on a percentage of the enrollment growth since the summer of 1985 (enrollment of the Fall, 1984). The university has encountered a fairly high growth during that period of time, (Fall 1985 to Fall 1986), but the available funds in the appropriation bill are earmarked to pay first for enrollment that was earned up to the beginning of the biennium and then for growth beyond that only to the extent to which remaining funds are in the appropriations bill. This year the remaining funds in the appropriations bill paid for only 38% of the growth that we have had since the academic year 1984-85. The result was another shortfall in the university's predicted state subsidy of \$769,000.

Those three items have cost the university roughly \$1,500,000 in state appropriations. Fortunately, Wright State has had student growth, so it set against that an overrealization in the income that was received from student charges. That total exceeds 1.2 million dollars. If you wash that out and add to it some losses that have occurred because of the declining interest rate, the total shortfall is almost \$468,000. This, added to what the university originally overbudgeted (against known savings), the target set this year was 1.886 million dollars. With a 1% cut on top of that (\$400,000) and the savings target is \$2,750,000--which means the university has to end the year having spent \$2,750,000 less than was budgeted on July 1, 1986. There are several sources for that which makes it not quite so frightening: among other things, the university normally recovers a sizable amount in the fringe benefits pool against our savings target--perhaps as much as 3/4 million dollars.

The university has intentionally not allocated all of the state funds budgeted for equipment and are at this point freezing those funds and holding just in excess of \$400,000. Also remaining in the university contingency pool is an excess of \$400,000 which will be frozen at this point as well. Those figures, added to the figures which exist in the various university special development accounts (university and college levels), added to prospective savings which might accumulate in the utilities account, the university is probably operating at a safe margin, but operating at a level which will make it difficult to spend any money for special kinds of activities or projects during the balance of the year.

President Mulhollan felt it was important for the faculty to know the situation and understand the source of it in order to be aware of the university's situation, both as a backdrop to the public discussions that will be read in the newspapers and heard on television at the state level, and also as the university considers the budget allocation for 1987-88.

IV. Report of the Steering Committee, Richard Williams reporting:

The committee has discussed the procedure for selecting honorary degree recipients. Upcoming agenda items:

- Appoint an ad hoc committee on dishonesty--to look into the question of how to deal with student cheating in the classrooms and what measures are available to the faculty. Persons interested in serving on this committee should contact Mr. Williams.
- The Full-time Nontenure Track ad hoc committee is in the process of reviewing a policy written by Manley Perkel.
- Charles Hathaway has indicated that he would like to see faculty governance look into the issue of work outside of the university by faculty members with a view to ending abuse of the one-day-a-week rule.

V. Report of the Standing Committees

A. Curriculum, Robert Wagley, reporting:

The General Education Review Committee, chaired by R.A. Pendergrass, is dealing primarily with gearing up for the new general education process. Persons with concerns, questions, or recommendations relating to general education should contact Mr. Wagley or members of the Curriculum or General Education Review Committee.

B. Faculty Affairs, Gregory Bernhardt reporting:

1. The Faculty Affairs Committee has called for nominations for the Trustee's Award for Faculty Excellence, due on or before February 13, 1987. The committee expects to forward 2-5 recommendations in early March to the Board of Trustees for a final decision.
2. The committee conducted a survey of the faculty in December on Emeritus, University, and Distinguished Professor Status. A redraft of this document has been completed and is circulating within the committee. A proposal on these honorifics should be made later this quarter.
3. The committee has received two reports and recommendations from the local Wright State University Chapter of AAUP concerning Nontenured Teaching Tracks and Merit as Criteria for Salary Increases. These positions will be considered over the next several weeks by the Faculty Affairs Committee.
4. The committee is considering an interim proposal on the Faculty Early Retirement Program.
5. The committee continues to monitor the progress of a due-process hearing concerning the complaint of a member of the faculty.
6. The committee expects to have some input into the ad hoc committee concerning cases of academic dishonesty.

C. Library Committee, No report.

D. Student Affairs, No report.

(The committee continues to be concerned for a uniform teaching evaluation instrument.)

E. Budget Review, Robert Dixon reporting:

The committee will meet weekly this quarter to work with the budget process. The committee received a report from Perry Moore and Donald Thomas on the internal task force that was generated last summer as input to the planning process.

As was reported by President Mulhollan, the environment in which the University Budget Review Committee works is somewhat unstable and unpredictable. The committee will make recommendations that have to do with short-term budget goals in the framework of the planning process and will try to state general goals rather than to look at individual items because the committee cannot predict the income. The committee will receive all the budget augmentation information, but recommendations will be set in general terms.

VI. Old Business

A. New Minor in Music. Robert Wagley reporting:

The Curriculum Committee recommended the approval of a new minor in music (12-1-86 Academic Council Minutes, Attachment B).

Being no discussion, the question was called.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

B. Library Committee Recommendations: Adrian Rake reporting:

The committee recommended that the Budget Review Committee examine the "Statement to Academic Council" (12-1-86 Academic Council minutes, Attachment A).

Following a short discussion, the question was called.

The motion was approved.

C. The 1988-89 Academic Calendar: Alphonso Smith, Calendar and Elections Committee, reporting:

The calendar was amended at the December 1, 1986 Academic Council meeting (12-1-86 Academic Council minutes, Attachment C).

Following a short discussion, the question was called.

The motion was approved.

VII. New Business -- None

VIII. Announcement and Special Reports

Intellectual Property Committee Membership, Richard Williams reporting:

The Intellectual Property Committee is charged with reviewing the existing patent and copyright policies and consolidating them into a single policy and recommending changes that would more fairly treat both faculty and university interests in the area of patents and copyrights. Members are: D. Thomas, (Chair), Dean, School of Graduate Studies; R. Dixon, Computer Science; R. Glaser, School of Medicine; B. Rowley, Biomedical Engineering; D. David, Theatre Arts; T. Von der Embse, Management; and Ex-officio, G. Mattison, Director of the Office of Legal Affairs.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 1987, at 3:10 p.m. in the cafeteria extension of the University Center.